In 2011, Congress invested in new and expanded health centers through a 5-year federal Health Center Trust Fund. When crafted, the assumption was that expanded health centers could serve increased primary care needs for the newly insured. The model relied on Medicaid expansion combined with ACA Marketplace insurance to sustain the expanded and new health centers once Trust funding ended (September 30, 2015).

A number of disruptions to this model developed:

• In 2011, Congress cut $600 million in discretionary funds from the base health center appropriation.
• In 2012, the US Supreme Court made Medicaid expansion optional for states and North Carolina elected not to expand.
• Since enrollment began in 2014, many uninsured selected bronze-level plans with higher co-pays and deductibles leaving them under-insured and relying on health center sliding fee discounts.

Given these challenges, NC community health centers and their patients are acutely vulnerable, and this is further compounded by the impending expiration of the Health Center Fund. It’s expiration on September 30, 2015 is considered the “health center funding cliff.” The cliff will result in a 70% loss in federal funds available to health centers and an average 10% revenue loss across NC community health centers. We need members of Congress to find a solution to the funding cliff and ensure solvency of the critical safety net resources we provide across the state.

### Estimated North Carolina Impacts of FY 2015 Health Center Funding Cliff:

- **26 site closures (out of current total of 178)**
- **94,000 FQHC patients losing care (21% of total)**
- **$115,000,000 = Increased costs to local emergency departments** (based on $1,233 non-acute ED visit charge per patient)
- **570 direct jobs lost (20% of total health center FTEs)**

### Background on NC Federally Qualified Health Centers

North Carolina’s Federally Qualified Health Centers (also known as community health centers, or CHCs) are private, nonprofit, community-based organizations that provide primary care – regardless of ability to pay – to 448,000 patients. Community health centers are led by majority consumer boards, serve medically underserved populations, and address the needs of their local communities. **Ninety-four percent of North Carolina CHC patients earn less than 200% of the federal poverty guidelines** ($23,340 for an individual) and **47% are uninsured**. In addition to the uninsured, they serve Medicaid (25%), Medicare (14%), private pay patients (15%). Total annual health expenditures for patients served in North Carolina’s CHCs were **62% less** than for patients receiving care in other ambulatory care settings.
2014 North Carolina Health Centers by County

Alamance | Piedmont Health Services
Anson | Anson Regional Medical Services
Avery | High Country Community Health
Beaufort | Metropolitan Community Health Services
Bertie | Bertie County Rural Health Association | Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center
Bladen | CommWell Health
Brunswick | CommWell Health
Buncombe | Western NC Community Health Services
Cabarrus | Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Centers
Caldwell | West Caldwell Health Council
Caswell | Caswell Family Medical Center | Piedmont Health Services
Catawba | Gaston Family Health Services
Chatham | Piedmont Health Services
Chowan | Gateway Community Health Centers
Columbus | Goshen Medical Center | Robeson Health Care Corporation
Craven | Goshen Medical Center
Cumberland | Stedman-Wade Health Services
Davidson | Gaston Family Health Services
Duplin | Goshen Medical Center
Durham | Lincoln Community Health Center
Edgecombe | Carolina Family Health Centers | OIC Family Medical Center | Rural Health Group
Forsyth | Southside United Health and Wellness Center
Franklin | Wake Health Services
Gaston | Gaston Family Health Services
Gates | Gateway Community Health Center
Greene | Greene County Health Care
Guilford | Triad Adult and Pediatric Medicine
Hatteras | Rural Health Group
Harnett | First Choice Community Health Center
Henderson | Blue Ridge Community Health Services
Hertford | Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center
Hoke | Robeson Health Care Corporation
Hyde | Ocracoke Health Center
Iredell | Gaston Family Health Services
Johnston | CommWell Health
Jones | Goshen Medical Center
Lincoln | Kinston Community Health Center
Madison | Hot Springs Health Program
Martin | Metropolitan Community Health Services
Mecklenburg | C.W. Williams Community Health Center
Mitchell | Bakersville Community Medical Clinic
Montgomery | Robeson Health Care Corporation
Nash | Carolina Family Health Centers
New Hanover | MedNorth Health Center
Northampton | Rural Health Group
Onslow | Goshen Medical Center
Orange | Piedmont Health Services
Pamlico | Greene County Health Care
Pender | CommWell Health
Person | Person Family Medical Center
Pitt | Greene County Health Care
Randolph | Randolph Family Health Care at MERCE
Robeson | Robeson Health Care Corporation
Rockingham | Triad Adult and Pediatric Medicine
Rowan | Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Centers
Rutherford | Blue Ridge Community Health Services
Sampson | CommWell Health | Goshen Medical Center
Scotland | Robeson Health Care Corporation
Transylvania | Blue Ridge Community Health Services
Union | Anson Regional Medical Services
Vance | Rural Health Group
Wake | Wake Health Services
Warren | Rural Health Group
Watauga | High Country Community Health
Wayne | Goshen Medical Center
Wilson | Carolina Family Health Centers

For a complete listing of NC CHC sites and services please visit www.ncchca.org